

# Pro Bono Representation of Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Matters

A webinar series presented by the:

American Bar Association's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA)

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Written Materials:

<b>Help Children and Families Near You .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ABA Commission on Immigration (COI) &amp; ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys: All Available for Free .....</b>	<b>4</b>
General Go-To Resources .....	4
Asylum, Withholding of Removal, & Protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT).....	6
Temporary Protected Status (TPS).....	7
The Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA).....	7
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) .....	7
Representing Clients in Immigration Court .....	8
Wraparound Services for Youth .....	9
Self-Care .....	10



## Help Children and Families Near You

The [American Bar Association's \(ABA\) Commission on Immigration](#) and [Children's Immigration Law Academy \(CILA\)](#) invite you to help children and families in immigration proceedings. We host easy-to-use online platforms that act as virtual bulletin boards featuring cases of children and families who need pro bono representation nationwide. View the platforms to connect to a meaningful pro bono opportunity near you!

[Pro Bono Matters for Families Facing Deportation](#) features opportunities to help families on the Dedicated Docket, which is a special docket for families who are recent arrivals to the United States. The goal of the court is to resolve their cases within 300 days. Only one-third of the families on this docket have representation, and many who might be eligible for relief are not able to complete applications without representation. Your pro bono support is crucial to ensuring these families can accurately present their cases and pursue their due process rights.

[Pro Bono Matters for Children Facing Deportation](#) allows lawyers to find available pro bono cases to represent unaccompanied children in deportation proceedings. Thousands of children must face immigration judges each year without appointed counsel. Many children have legal relief available that could offer them protection and more security in the United States. The only thing missing is knowledge and guidance to navigate the system. Your representation makes a significant difference in the lives of children facing deportation.

### VISIT THE ABA COI AND ABA CILA PLATFORMS TO VIEW AVAILABLE CASES

- ✓ View available cases on the ABA's platforms to see cases of children and families who need pro bono representation.
- ✓ Use the search and filter functions on the platforms to find a case.
- ✓ When you find a case that you would like to work on, express interest!
- ✓ You will be connected with the legal service provider who posted that case, who can provide you with more information and get you started.

ABA Commission on Immigration Platform:  
[Pro Bono Matters for Families Facing Deportation](#) [LINK](#)



ABA CILA Platform:  
[Pro Bono Matters for Children Facing Deportation](#) [LINK](#)



### USE THE ABA COI AND ABA CILA RESOURCES TO HELP YOUR REPRESENTATION

Many legal service providers who post cases on the platforms provide resources and mentorship to help with your representation. In addition, ABA COI and ABA CILA provide volunteers with voluminous libraries of training videos, written manuals and resource guides, and other technical assistance to help support your pro bono work.

We have included a complete list of states and organizations represented on the two platforms!

STATE	ORGANIZATION NAME	DIRECT LINK TO ORGANIZATION'S CASES ON THE PLATFORM(S)
AZ	Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (FIRRP)	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
CA	ABA Immigration Justice Project (IJP)	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	Casa Cornelia Law Center	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	Immigration Center for Women and Children	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
CO	Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
FL	Americans for Immigrant Justice (AI Justice)	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
LA	Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of New Orleans	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
MA	Catholic Charities of Boston	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
MD	CAIR Coalition	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
NC	ABA ProBAR	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities <i>(Please note the link includes opportunities in CA, NC, and TX.)</i>
NM	New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (NMILC)	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
NY	Catholic Charities Community Services, NY	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	Safe Passage Project	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
TN	Latino Memphis	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
TX	ABA ProBAR	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities <i>(Please note the link includes opportunities in CA, NC, and TX.)</i>
	Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project (GHIRP)	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	KIND	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities
	YMCA International Services Houston	<a href="#">Link</a> to current opportunities



# ABA Commission on Immigration (COI) & ABA Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA) Resources for Pro Bono Attorneys: All Available for Free

## General Go-To Resources

- COI's [\*\*Family Group Dedicated Docket Pro Bono Manual\*\*](#): 160+ page comprehensive manual with sections on Common Forms of Relief in Immigration Court and before USCIS, Effective Representation, Ethical Considerations, an Introduction to Immigration Court, an Introduction to USCIS, and Practical Pointers. Includes how-to checklists. *Updated Nov. 2022.*
- CILA's [\*\*Pro Bono Guide: Working with Children and Youth in Immigration Cases\*\*](#): 117-page guide that covers important skills for working with children and youth in immigration cases including trauma-informed lawyering and interviewing tips and strategies along with sections focused on key forms of relief. The guide covers the basics of necessary skills and substantive law in children's cases, while also providing practical tips and links throughout to learn more. *Updated Sept. 2021.*
- COI's [\*\*Ethics of Representing Families on the Dedicated Docket\*\*](#): 12-page ethics guide that provides best practices for representing family groups, including conducting intakes, conflicts of interest, and special issues when representing spouses and children. *Updated Feb. 2022.*
- COI's [\*\*Practice Guide: Seeking Expedited Adjudications, Short-List Notices, and Case Assistance\*\*](#): 12-page guide that explains how and when to seek expedited case adjudications with USCIS, short-notice lists at the Asylum Office, and case assistance from other government entities. *June 2022.*
- COI's [\*\*Practice Guide: Statements as Evidence: Drafting and Editing Declarations, Affidavits, and Letters\*\*](#): 20-page guide that describes of the types of statements, experts, and witnesses in immigration cases as well as practical tips and considerations for drafting statements. Also included are sample client and expert declarations, and consent to release or exchange confidential information. *June 2022.*
- COI's [\*\*Primer: Immigration Enforcement Mechanisms at the U.S. Border\*\*](#): 28-page primer that provides a broad introduction to the enforcement mechanisms employed at the U.S. southern border, including information affecting unaccompanied children, families, and adults. *Dec. 2022.*
- COI & CILA's recorded training [\*\*Representing Children and Families in Immigration Matters\*\*](#): Three panels on how to best represent children and families. The first panel provides an overview of key forms of legal relief. The second panel is an overview of representing an individual in removal proceedings and before USCIS. And the third panel provides best practices when working with families and children. *Mar. 2022.*



- CILA recorded training series [Unaccompanied Children and Immigration 101](#) covering nine topics:
  - *Introduction to Working with Unaccompanied Children; Trauma-Informed Lawyering with Unaccompanied Children; and Family-Based Immigration and VAWA for Unaccompanied Children, Options for Child Survivors of Crimes, Including Trafficking.* 2019.
  - *Introduction to Removal Proceedings for Unaccompanied Children and Introduction to Asylum for Unaccompanied Children.* Updated Mar. 2022.
  - *Introduction to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Ethical Representation of Unaccompanied Children.* Updated Mar. 2023.
- CILA's [Helpful Resources in Representing Unaccompanied Children](#): Provides many resources with links for practitioners to access sources of law and policy, as well as information from stakeholders and practice guides. Updated July 2022.
- CILA's recorded training [Child Interviewing Techniques](#): Covers practical tips and skills to work with and interview child clients. Apr. 2021.
- CILA's [Tips for Working with Migrant Children and Trauma-Informed Lawyering](#): 21-page resource covering trauma-informed lawyering tips for practitioners and pro bono attorneys new to working with migrant children. Feb. 2023.
- CILA's [Cultural Competency When Representing UCs](#): 8-page resource that assists attorneys in creating a safe space for their clients to share their complete identity, which will also help the attorney to persuasively present the child's case to an adjudicator and provide effective communication. Nov. 2019.
- CILA's [Bite-Sized Tips for New Practitioners & Pro Bono Attorneys](#): Includes seven short videos from the CILA team each featuring a tip for new practitioners. CILA compiled the tips into a written resource and provided CILA resources to learn more. The tips range from practicing intentionally, to research tips, to information regarding case preparation. Oct. 2022.
- CILA's [Practical and Ethical Considerations and Reminders when Working with Translators and Interpreters](#): Includes ethical and practical tips and considerations when working with a translator or interpreter. Apr. 2023.
- CILA's blog post [Keeping the Government Accountable: Upholding Civil Rights and Due Process for UCs](#): Reviews information on filing a Department of Homeland Security civil rights complaint and questions to incorporate into screenings. Oct. 2019.
- CILA's blog post [Have you Heard of DHS's OIDO?](#): Provides an overview of the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman (OIDO) and the process for requesting assistance if a youth while detained by ORR experiences a loss of their personal property or a violation of their personal rights. Apr. 2023.
- CILA and the National Immigration Litigation Alliance (NILA): Provides multiple [recorded trainings and written resources](#) created to support advocates as they pursue the case beyond the immigration court level. If the pro bono project involves **brief writing, appellate work, or litigation**, these resources will be an asset to your practice. Trainings cover topics such as Legal Writing, Advanced



Immigration Legal Research, Winning at the BIA, and Introduction to Federal Court Practice. CILA's [blog post](#) summarizes key resources and trainings developed in the partnership.

## Asylum, Withholding of Removal, & Protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT)

- CILA's [Asylum Case Theory and Evidence Matrix](#): Chart regarding legal elements with space to include relevant facts and supporting documentation to help advocates stay organized and effectively prepare a case. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org).
- COI's recorded training [Asylum 101 for Families on the Dedicated Docket](#): Substantive overview of asylum law, particularly as it relates to families on the dedicated docket. Great resource for those who are new to asylum law. *Feb. 2022*.
- CILA's recorded training series [Unaccompanied Children and Immigration 101](#): Introduction to Asylum for Unaccompanied Children. *Updated Mar. 2022*.
- CILA's [Withholding of Removal and Protection Under the CAT resources](#): Case Evidence List, Developing Your Case Chart, and Key Sources of Law and Cases. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *Jan. 2020*.
- COI's recorded training [Engaging Country Conditions Experts in Asylum Cases](#): Panel of country conditions experts and attorneys discuss strategies for working together before and during the asylum case, tips for testimony preparation, and special considerations when working with children and youth. Panelists shared insights, experiences, and practical pointers. The webinar included an accompanying [Quick Guide: Engaging Country Conditions Experts in Asylum Cases](#). *Dec. 2022*.
- CILA's recorded training [A Deep Dive Into Current Conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, & Honduras with the Experts](#): Reviews the political and cultural context of each of these countries to help advocates better work with clients and assess forms of relief. *Aug. 2021*.
- CILA's [Trauma-Informed Representation in Asylum Cases: Asylum Interview/Asylum Merits Hearing Checklists](#): 15-page resource that provides practical tips and guidance for trauma-informed representation in asylum cases. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *Updated Apr. 2023*.
- CILA's [Country Conditions Compilation: Conditions for LGBTQIA+ Children & Youth in Seven Countries](#): 76-page resource divided by country, that includes relevant quotes from articles and reports. The resource also identifies some local organizations that help and support LGBTQIA+ individuals in those countries. The resource is intended to be a helpful starting point for advocates' research on the issues facing their LGBTQIA+ clients in their home countries. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *August 2022*.



## Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

- COI's recorded training [TPS 101 for Afghans: Introduction to TPS](#): An introduction to TPS eligibility and application requirements. *Feb. 2023.*
- COI's recorded training [TPS 201 for Afghans: Complex Legal Issues](#): Focuses on common issues that arise when applying for TPS for Afghans. *Feb. 2023.*
- COI's recorded training [TPS for Haitians in Removal Proceedings](#): Dives into common issues that arise when applying for TPS for Haitians in removal proceedings such as strategies to consider in applying for TPS and asylum, dual nationality, and firm resettlement. This webinar included an accompanying [Practice Guide: TPS for Haitians in Removal Proceedings](#). *Mar. 2023.*

## The Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA)

- COI's recorded training [The Cuban Adjustment Act: Overview of Relief and Common Issues](#): Offers a summary of the Cuban Adjustment Act, common issues and creative solutions thereto. Panelists also shared practical pointers and reflections from the field. *July 2022.*

## Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

- CILA's [Special Immigrant Juvenile Status \(SIJS\) Manual for Texas Practitioners](#): Comprehensive guide to how to seek SIJS determinations in Texas state court. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org).
- CILA's [Special Immigrant Juvenile Status \(SIJS\) Case Theory and Evidence Matrix](#): Chart regarding legal elements with space to include relevant facts and supporting documentation to help advocates stay organized and effectively prepare a SIJS case. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org).
- CILA's recorded training series [Unaccompanied Children and Immigration 101](#): Introduction to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. *Updated Apr. 2023.*
- CILA's recorded training [SIJS in Texas 101: An Overview of State Court Proceedings for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status](#): Great overview of Texas family law and best practices for approaching SIJS custody cases in Texas Family Court. *Feb. 2022.*
- CILA's [The ABCs of SIJS](#): 7-page resource providing an overview of SIJS including changes that occurred in 2022. *June 2022.*
- CILA's [Special Immigrant Juvenile Status \(SIJS\) Overview](#): 2-page overview of SIJS including information on SIJS eligibility requirements, key citations, and information on the process. *Updated Oct. 2022.*
- CILA's [Quick Reference Guide – Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and EB-4 Immigrant Visa Availability](#): 1-page resource answering the common question of



what does it mean when visas are currently “unavailable” for children and youth with SIJS. *Updated Oct. 2022.*

- CILA’s blog post [Department of State Changes to Interpretation of Law Impacts Youth Approved for SIJS](#): Reviews recently announced changes that impact how the U.S. Department of State allocates EB-4 visas. *Mar. 2023.*
- CILA’s recorded training [Overcoming Analysis Paralysis: Practical Considerations for Adjusting Status Based on SIJS](#): Provides an overview of adjustment of status based on SIJS. *Jan. 2021.*
- CILA’s [Frequently Asked Questions – Overcoming Analysis Paralysis: Practical Considerations for Adjusting Status Based on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status \(SIJS\)](#): 28-page FAQ that serves as a follow-up written resource to the training to answer questions about adjustment of status based on SIJS. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *Aug. 2021.*

## Representing Clients in Immigration Court

- COI’s [Practice Advisory: Seeking Prosecutorial Discretion](#): 16-page practice advisory that includes an overview of the various prosecutorial discretion (PD) Memos and explains best practices for how to request PD and what types of discretion to seek. Includes a template PD request. *Updated Sept. 2022.*
- COI’s recorded training [Mechanics of Immigration Court Series Part I: The Master Calendar Hearing](#): How to determine if your client is in immigration removal proceedings and how to secure the relevant case file, appearances in immigration court, what to expect at a Master Calendar Hearing (including a mock hearing), and how to use WebEx for court appearances. *Feb. 2022.*
- COI’s recorded training [Mechanics of Immigration Court Series Part II: Corroboration, Preparing Witnesses, and Working with Experts](#): How to prepare witnesses for trial and bolster credibility, what types of evidence to submit and how to react to evidence submitted by OPLA, how to handle police reports and RAP sheets, engaging lay witnesses, using expert witnesses, and country conditions. *Feb. 2022.*
- COI’s recorded Q&A [Mechanics of Immigration Court Series Part II: Follow-Up](#): In a follow-up video to Part II, panelists answer questions from the Q&A that they did not have time to address during the initial webinar. *Feb. 2022.*
- COI’s recorded training [Mechanics of Immigration Court Series Part III: The Individual Hearing](#): How to prepare materials for the individual hearing, how to anticipate and respond to objections, tips for direct and cross-examinations, how to handle interruptions by the immigration judge, and how to best preserve the record for appeal. *Mar. 2022.*
- CILA’s recorded training [Unaccompanied Children and Immigration 101](#): Introduction to Removal Proceedings for Unaccompanied Children. *Updated Mar. 2022.*





- COI's recorded training [Accelerated Timelines: Gathering Evidence and Making Your Case with Experts for Cases on the Dedicated Docket](#): Panelists address best practices in working closely and together with experts to advance the clients' case, with reflections directly from two experts themselves. *Aug. 2022.*
- CILA's recorded training [Working with Experts to Build Your Evidentiary Record](#): Overview of how to work with expert witnesses in asylum cases in immigration court. *July 2020.*
- COI's [Quick Guide: Prosecutorial Discretion](#): This resource is a chart that provides an overview of potential PD requests, and the pros and cons to each type of request. *Feb. 2023*
- COI's recorded training [Motions to Reopen in Immigration Court](#): Experts provide an overview on motions to reopen in immigration court and reflect on their experiences and recent case law. The webinar included an accompanying [Quick Guide: Motions to Reopen in Immigration Court for Cases on the Dedicated Docket](#). *Sept. 2022.*
- CILA's [Tips for Working with Children and Youth Remotely in a Hearing or USCIS Asylum Office Interview](#): 16-page tips sheet that offers pointers for advocates to consider before a remote proceeding so that they get prepared and know what to expect. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *Mar. 2022.*
- CILA's [How to Prepare for an Individual Hearing: Different Practitioners' Perspectives](#): 15-page resource that provides different tips on how to prepare and represent a client in an individual hearing. If you need the password to access this page, contact CILA at [cila@abacila.org](mailto:cila@abacila.org). *Updated Dec. 2022.*
- COI's recorded training [Common Forms of Immigration Relief and How to Screen for Them](#): The panelists share tips on the eligibility requirements and helpful screening tips for common forms of immigration relief. This training is intended for those new to immigration law and those representing clients on the dedicated docket. This webinar included an accompanying [Quick Guide: Screening for Family Groups in Removal Proceedings](#). *Jan. 2023.*
- CILA's recorded training [Immigration Judge Perspectives on Pro Bono Representation and Best Practices](#): Former and current immigration judges present on pro bono representation and best practices for removal proceedings. *Feb. 2023.*
- COI's recorded training [Representing Stateless Clients in Immigration Court](#): Experts share the issues stateless clients may face in immigration court and includes case studies. *Apr. 2023.*

## Wraparound Services for Youth

- CILA's [Working with Unaccompanied Children: Mental and Behavioral Health Toolkit](#): Provides context to the experiences of unaccompanied children, 101 essential information regarding their mental and behavioral health, and practical tools and resources for working with these youth. *May 2022.*



- CILA's [Navigating Reunification Challenges: A Toolkit for Sponsors of Unaccompanied Children](#): A resource for sponsors and children with information about potential social, behavioral, and mental health challenges that might arise during the reunification process along with some practical tips and activities to help prevent or mitigate these challenges. *Aug. 2022.*
- CILA's blog post [Resources to Help Advocates Working with Immigrant Youth Navigate Medical Care](#): Reviews and links to resources that can help with navigating immigrant youth's healthcare needs. *Jan. 2023.*
- CILA's recorded training [Tips and Guidance for Helping Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth Access Publicly Funded Benefits and Services](#): Provides detailed information on the full range of publicly funded benefits and services unaccompanied immigrant youth can access in their states. This webinar included [materials and resources](#) from the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP). *Apr. 2023.*

### Self-Care

- COI's recorded training [The Lifeguard is Drowning: Identifying Burnout in Immigration Practitioners](#): Offers concrete ways to help immigration practitioners experiencing burnout and secondary trauma, to help them build sustainable careers in this field. *Apr. 2022.*
- CILA's recorded training [Secondary Traumatic Stress and Self Care](#): Discusses how and why secondary traumatic stress manifests including how to develop a strategic approach that focuses on self-care. *Mar. 2022.*

